

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /164 W

----- 069511

R 210955Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7414

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T TEHRAN 5999

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET, SA, IR, US

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 156317

1. AMBASSADOR PROVIDED FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI WITH SELECTED EXTRACTS FROM REFTEL AFTERNOON JULY 19. AFTER DEGESTING THE INFORMATION KHALATBARI THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR THE FULLNESS OF THE REPORT AND ASKED WHETHER WE WERE GOING TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE BEYOND WHAT WAS MENTIONED IN THE REPORT. AMBASSADOR REPLIED, NOT THAT WE WERE AWARE OF.

2. KHALATBARI THEN ASKED WHETHER THE ETHIOPIANS HAD APPROACHED THEIR ARAB FRIENDS. HE SAID THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM THE ARABS WOULD BE A LOGICAL SOURCE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN VIEW OF HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ETHIOPIA HAD CUT OFF ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF THE OCTOBER WAR AS A FAVOR TO THE ARABS. HE IMPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT ETHIOPIA HAD AN IOU IT OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO CASH. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE UNDER-
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STOOD THE ETHIOPIANS INTENDED TO APPROACH SAUDI ARABIA

BUT HAD NO INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THEY HAD DONE SO
AS YET.

3. DURING AN EARLIER BRIEF CHAT AT A SOCIAL EVENT,
KHALATBARI STRONGLY IMPLIED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT
IT WAS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY IRAN WOULD BE RESPONSIVE
TO ETHIOPIA'S REQUEST FOR F-5-E'S EITHER FROM IRAN'S
OWN INVENTORY OR BY DIVERSION FROM PRODUCTION -RUNS
FOR DELIVERY TO IRAN. IN JULY 19 MEETING AMBASSADOR
DID MAKE THE POINT THAT WE WOULD GIVE URGENT CONSID-
ERATION TO AN IRANIAN REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN
ARMS TRANSFER TO ETHIOPIA SHOULD IT DECIDE TO MAKE
ONE (REFTEL PARA 11).
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN05999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740196-0943
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740730/aaaaazsv.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 156317
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: MASS, ET, SA, IR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005